If you like
Barbara Kingsolver
try reading...

Their Eyes Were Watching God
by Zora Neale Hurston
Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston tells the story of Janie Crawford's exploration for identity, independence, and joy in early twentieth-century Florida. (FIC HUR)

The Samurai's Garden
by Gail Tsukiyama
Stephen, a tuberculosis-stricken 17-year-old from Hong Kong, takes a year-long retreat at a summer home in the Japanese village of Tarumi. While Stephen learns of Japanese attacks at home, he finds stillness, mystery, and friendship with an old caretaker in Tarumi. (FIC TSU)

Lady Oracle
by Margaret Atwood
"I planned my death carefully; unlike my life, which meandered along from one thing to another, despite my feeble attempts to control it," opens Joan Foster in this tale of escape and personal transformation. (FIC ATW)

Cold Sassy Tree
by Olive Ann Burns
14-year-old Willy Tweedy watches on as his grandpa marries a woman half his age just three weeks after his first wife's death—and young Will is left to "why in the heck she would marry the old man." (FIC BUR)

Jude the Obscure
by Thomas Hardy
A surprising pick in this list of modern fiction, *Jude the Obscure* mirrors modern themes of personal exploration. Stonemason Jude Fawley stirs to become a minister but faces internal and external conflict along the way. (FIC HAR)

You might also try...

Breath, Eyes, Memory
by Edwidge Danticat
FIC DAN

In the Time of the Butterflies
by Julia Alvarez
FIC ALV

Golden Notebook
by Doris Lessing
FIC LES

Cane River
by Lalita Tademy
FIC TAD

The Underpainter
by Jane Urquhart
FIC URQ

The Memory Keeper's Daughter
by Kim Edwards
FIC EDW

Charming Billy
by Alice McDermott
FIC McD

We Were the Mulvaneys
by Joyce Carol Oates
FIC OAT

Moon Tiger
by Penelope Lively
FIC LIV

The Kitchen God's Wife
by Amy Tan
FIC TAN

The Temple of My Familiar
by Alice Walker
FIC WAL

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
by Lisa See
FIC SEE

The Master Butchers Singing Club
by Louise Erdrich
FIC ERD

The Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison
FIC MOR